

## Department of Transportation

### Office of the Secretary

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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
South Dakota Congressional Representative  
331 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

**I fully support the efforts to construct an Intermodal Freight Facility in Harrold, South Dakota.**

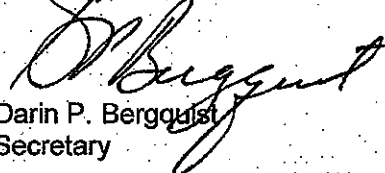
The total project will include engineering, property acquisition, grading, and gravel surfacing for the rail yard area, installation of switches and construction of 5800 feet of track. This project is still under development and has not yet been fully vetted before the public. Once the complete details are known, the project will be included in our STIP and the public review process to follow will allow for full vetting before the public.

This project is to construct a transload facility for wind power components. Freight rail will be used to bring wind energy generation components to a centrally located facility for regional distribution. The completed project will allow for the shipment of wind power equipment into Harrold, South Dakota by rail. It will then be loaded onto trucks and shipped to its final destination. It is expected these components will be trucked as far as southern North Dakota and northern Nebraska.

This project has both regional and national significance. The goal is to offer more efficient transportation of oversize and overweight wind power components to their final destination in South Dakota and the surrounding region. Many of these components are currently trucked long distances, causing interference with normal traffic and additional stress and damage on the roads that can be relieved by the proposed rail project. This multi-state transload facility project is of national significance because it will reduce truck traffic on highways across the country by allowing for rail shipping of these components.

I respectfully request your support of this project.

Sincerely,

  
Darin P. Bergquist  
Secretary

Attachment